

North Yakima Conservation District

Other Accomplishments



Schneider Habitat Project
(before implementation)



The Boregos putting
together a new pump fish
screen and water meter



Diversion 31 fish screen

2008 Feature Accomplishment

Schneider Habitat Project

Resource Challenge

The Cowiche Creek Watershed is a high priority for Salmon Recovery within the North Yakima Conservation District (NYCD.) Fish resources suffer from passage barriers, unscreened diversions, and poor habitat. Other resource concerns include water quality (sedimentation and temperature) and overgrazing practices.



Schneider Habitat project
(after implementation)

Project Summary and Results

NYCD worked with three adjoining landowners along Cowiche Creek to address and correct the effects of overgrazing of their riparian pastures. The landowners wished to stabilize their stream banks while wanting to maintain the lands viability for livestock grazing. NYCD put together farm plans with the landowners while educating them about their many resource challenges.

From this process a larger project called the Schneider Habitat Project emerged. It included engineering and implementation to provide stream bank stabilization and in stream habitat improvements throughout a 2,000 foot stream corridor. The project design took into consideration the landowners' needs as well as the fish habitat and water quality concerns related to temperature, sedimentation, and nutrient transport. Best Management Practices that were implemented include: log weirs, planting benches, root wads, fencing, hardened crossings, off-channel livestock watering, riparian plantings, and irrigation pump screening.

Currently the landowners are enjoying the improved use of their riparian pastures while the designed habitat features are functioning properly. With continued operation and maintenance the Best Management Practices implemented will exceed their goals.

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More Work To Do

- The NYCD's resource priority is to develop programs that maintain agricultural and open space areas for the multitude of benefits they provide from economic stability and habitat to aesthetics and sense of community.
- NYCD is developing programs and partnerships to address the threat of wildfire throughout the District, from its rangeland areas to its forested lands.